

A LETTER from---- a P. in North-Britain, to the Right Honourable the E. of I-a.

My Lord,



THE Great Value and Esteem I always entertain'd for your Lordship, makes me look back with Pleasure, upon that Generous Attempt, Your Lordship made in Conjunction with some worthy Patriots, Two Years ago, to have the Union dissolv'd in Parliament; and when I consider how far the late happy Turn of Affairs contribute to make Way for that Matter, I am overjoy'd with Hopes of seeing your Lordship Accomplish new with Ease, what you then Attempted under a Multitude of Difficulties.

I shall not take up your Lordship's Time, with Repeating the many Advantages, you at that Time told me would attend that Dissolution, so insupportable to the Scots, no way Beneficial to the English, and tending to widen rather than to heal our Breaches; I need say no more to your Lordship on that Head, but that I stand firm under the same Conviction, as your Lordship then left me.

My Design of giving your Lordship this Trouble at present, is to put you in Mind of the Method you then very judiciously and zealously Proposed, for bringing that Affair to bear in Parliament, with the Difficulties which then attended it, and to shew your Lordship, That the only great Difficulty, which then stood in the Way, is now removed.

Your Lordship does remember, that the Method you then laid down, was by engaging all the Scots Members, in either House, to join without Reserve in every Vote of whatsoever Concern, with that Party, which would join with us in Dissolving the Union; and to oppose without Reverse that Party which would oppose us.

This was the express Rule and Resolution laid down by your Lordship, and I remember Three Difficulties occurred to us; The first was a Moral Difficulty, that it would not be an easie Matter to engage so many Gentlemen, perhaps of different Principles, to go Implicitly into one absolute uniform Resolution right or wrong, to give their Votes with, or against any one Party.

As to this, I remember, your Lordship convinc'd me, That tho' in Matters of Church and Religion, Men are bound to follow the Direction of their Conscience, yet in all other Matters, these being only the Concerns of State or Policy, a Man is to be directed by the Motive of Convenience or Inconveniency of that Society, or State he is intrusted by.

Your Lordship was further pleased to tell me, That we could in no Sense be charged with Rashness or Injustice in this Point, because it was in the Power of any Minister to do these Nations Justice in the Matter; and if they were backward, they had themselves only to blame in obliging us, by this Method, to drive them to it.

Upon this, I remember, I agreed with your Lordship to follow the absolute Rule laid down by you, excepting singly Church Concerns.

The second Difficulty was, That the Government had then a very great Work upon their Hands, and that in case of the Ministers refusing to second us, an universal Opposition from the Scots Members would sink the Ministry, and break the Measures of the Government.

I am very sure, My Lord, this Difficulty had no manner of Weight with you or me, and the Returns that Ministry has made to some Gentlemen, who let slip so good an Opportunity of doing Service to Britain, out of Tenderness to them, is a standing Warning to all Wise Men, never to shew Compassion to Men, who will not do Justice when they can do it.

The last and great Difficulty, was the Danger of the Protestant Succession, by the Dissolution of the Union, seeing it had no other Security in Scotland, but by the Union.

I must do your Lordship the Justice, that your hearty Concern for that Succession, was the only Difficulty, which stagger'd your Resolution in this Matter; but had some Preliminary Measures been complied with, which were then proposed by your Lordship, and some other Eminent Worthy Patriots of that Succession, (particularly the Earl of —) I make not the least doubt, the Union had been dissolved at that Time.

But now, My Lord, that great and only Difficulty is at an End, by the Blessing of Providence, that Succession is now so secured, that the Gates of Hell, cannot prevail against it; The Preliminary Securities which your Lordship, and these other Worthy Patriots then insisted on, are now doubled and tripled by the Laws of Man, and the Smiles of Providence.

So that now nothing remains, but that your Lordship and these other Worthy Persons pursue that generous Design of Dissolving this Union, easie to neither Nation, to make way for another agreeable to both.

Your Lordship needs not, in my humble Opinion, alter one single Circumstance of your former Method, only thus far, to prepare for it, in the ensuing Election, by proposing it as a Test to all Persons, Peers, or Commoners to be Elected; That they declare, by all that is Sacred, before their Elections, that, they shall unanimously concur in all Measures possible, for Dissolving the Union; and that in all Cases whatsoever, (Church or Religion excepted) they shall Vote for that Party which shall assist them, and against that Party which shall oppose them.

I must take Notice of one New Circumstance, which should encourage all good Men, to put their helping Hand to this Work; the Jacobites in Scotland have nothing left them whereby to spirit up their own Party, or to amuse Honest Men, but by possessing Peoples Minds, that the King and his Ministry will not agree to the Dissolution, but that the Pretender will certainly do it: You know this whole Nation is under a most bitter Prejudice at the Union, and People of all Kinds begin to give Ear to these Insinuations; it is the only Handle left that Faction, it may prove of dangerous Consequence, and your Lordship, and all good Men can see, that as soon as the Union is Dissolv'd, that Faction is at an end.

Your Lordship has not forgot, that some ill-minded Men endeavoured to persuade People, that your Lordship was not sincere in that Matter, that you pursued it only in Resentment against the then Ministry; I can be a sufficient Evidence to the contrary, and shall conclude, most heartily Congratulating with your Lordship, the fair and easy Prospect of this Affair, with the Happy Opportunity your Lordship now has of shewing both Friends and Enemies your Sincerity and Constancy in this Affair; which cannot fail raising you to that high Esteem, you so justly deserve of your Countrymen, and particularly of,